GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3113
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2001
DISPLAYING OF INGREDIENTS ON FOOD PACKETS
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Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made it compulsory for all the food companies engaged in products like biscuits, ice creams, soft drinks, paneer etc., to prominently display a "brown dot" on their packs if these products contain any non vegetarian ingredients;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether most of the food products contain several additives, enzymes and food processing aids which come from animal origins;

(d) if so, whether these products have been containing non vegetarian ingredients till date; and

(e) if so, the details of other vegetarian products containing non-vegetarian ingredients?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (PROF. CHAMAN LAL GUPTA)

(a) to (b): In order to provide correct information to the consumer about the nature of food purchased by them, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had made it mandatory to display on the label of the package of food having non-vegetarian ingredient, a symbol and colour code so stipulated for this purpose under Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 and Rules 1955 made there under (PFA Act 1954). The symbol shall consist of a brown colour filled circle having a diameter not less than size specified according to size of package, inside the square with brown outline having side double the diameter of circle. For this purpose, non-vegetarian food has been defined as an article of food which contains whole or part of any animal including birds, fresh water or marine animals or eggs or products of any animal origin, but not including milk and milk products, as an ingredient.

(c) to (e): Additives, enzymes and food processing aids can be derived from both vegetarian and non-vegetarian sources and source is not required to be declared under PFA Act, 1954. The use of these depends upon the technological necessity and decided by the manufacturers of food products. As such, specific information in this regard is not available.